

Vocare

Toronto West Serra Club Newsletter

February 2017 - 1

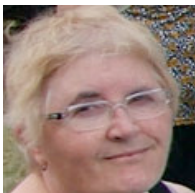
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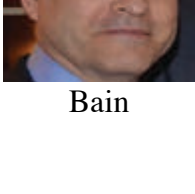
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We
warmly
welcome
our
new
Club
Chaplain



Father Boulos Saleh

Father Saleh is no stranger to our Club. He was our Honoured Guest back in September, 2002.

He comes from a line of seventeen generations of priests, ending with his grandfather.

As Palestinians they followed the Malkite Rite of the Catholic Church whose priests are allowed to marry.

Fr. Boulos studied at St. Augustine's Seminary and in Rome. He was ordained for both rites and enjoys the privilege of celebrating Mass in both rites.

At one time Father served as Pastor of St. Gregory's Parish in Etobicoke, where some of our members got to know and appreciate him and his many talents and welcoming ministry.

Father Jacob Mado Honoured Guest

Monday, September 26th, 2016
Introduced by John Gennaro
Thanked by Anthony Mangione Jr.

Father Mado said this is his second visit with us, the last time was five years ago. He said that this is the Extraordinary Year of Mercy, which began on December 8, 2015. He answered the question: "Why a special year for God's Mercy?" by saying that St. John Paul said in his Encyclical that our world is forgetting the notion of mercy. Pope Francis has answered the importance of mercy with a resounding, "Yes". The notion of mercy goes all the way back to Genesis where God treated Adam and Eve with mercy after the Fall, versus punishing them. If you crush the head of the suffering, then the suffering will crush you. It had been predicted in the Old Testament that in regard to suffering that there will come a time where a child borne of woman (Jesus) will crush evil i.e. the devil. Thus, justice will be obtained and we can begin over again. He used the example of the worship of the idol calf during the time of Moses where God had to interfere. God said that he would show mercy to those who show mercy. Mercy and love are the criteria of justice. Jesus Christ is the visible face of God's mercy. He came to save the world, not by judgment, but by his word and actions. His first words were to repent as God is near at hand i.e. to change your ways and to show mercy. This quality was shown by what he taught the people, parables such as: God's wandering sheep where the first shall be last, and the woman with 10 children, one being astray, that no anger or recrimination to be shown. In addition, what Jesus does with the people are signs of God's compassion and mercy e.g. God loves those trapped in poverty. When no one was helping a poor man, Jesus, by forgiving him of sins, was the first one in years to acknowledge him. He pointed out that there are three components of mercy: (i) Forgive and you are forgiven i.e. we should have the spirit of forgiveness; (ii) Love God and you will be loved i.e. worship man and you will be empty; and (iii) Love and mercy, you cannot be merciful if you do not show love. We are quick to judge and conclude e.g. the story of the woman about to be stoned to death. Mercy is an opportunity for the person to change. St. John Paul said that love simply as a word is of no use. You have to show actions by helping the person in need i.e. actions speak louder than words. For this, we have to look into our hearts and address the very difficult things in our lives. In this regard, Marylake was very busy over the summer by those who came to be shown mercy. He was constantly listening to confessions, Monday to Saturday for two hours in the morning and for two hours in the afternoon.

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Brother Joseph Lourdasamy Franciscan Capuchin

Honoured Guest
Monday, January 9th, 2017
Introduced by Nick Critelli
Thanked by David Bain

Brother Joseph said he was surprised to be invited to speak at our meeting. When he first became a priest, he was taught that a priest should not speak for more than ten minutes. The deacon was to ring the bell at the 10 minute mark.

Brother then shared with us the story of his early home life that led him to consider a vocation to the priesthood - and part of the amazing journey that led him to be in Toronto today, including the challenges that resulted from accepting his priestly vocation.

Joseph was born in southeast India in 1958, the sixth child of his Catholic parents. He was in grade 10 when he first felt the call to priesthood. His parents made many personal sacrifices to enable young Joseph to achieve the educational requirements to gain admittance to the seminary. In grade eleven he came under the influence of the Franciscan Capuchins and was faced with the necessity of learning English, which was the language used in their seminary. Once there he spent three years earning a degree in Philosophy, and another four years for a degree in Theology. Then following his ordination he continued his studies for a Masters degree in Theology. This led to a teaching assignment for the next seven years. His next challenge, where he had to learn the Shona language, was for a 3 year stint in Zimbabwe where he lived in a house with a leaky roof, no plumbing and no electricity.

In 1998 he returned to India to manage the Order's house there. In 2001 his Provincial sent him to Canada where he spent three years in Blenheim and six years in Windsor before finally landing at St. Philip Neri parish in Toronto. Currently this well educated and well travelled and widely experienced young 59 year old is staying at St. Philip Neri Parish, Toronto. He will remain in Canada to serve on the Provincial Council of the Franciscan Capuchin Order.

oOo

No matter how you feel.
Get up, dress up, show up,
and never give up.

BOARD MEETINGS

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES meets on the 3rd Monday of each month for planning and management of club business (unless otherwise noted)

- Feb 20 Board Meeting #598
 Mar 20 Board Meeting #599
 Apr 17 Board Meeting #600
 Form Nominating Committee
 May 15 Board Meeting #601
 Jun 19 Board Meeting #602
 Jul 17 Board Meeting #603
 Aug 21 Board Meeting #604
 Sep 21 Board Meeting #605
 Oct 17 Board Meeting #606
 Nov 17 Board Meeting #607

CLUB NEWS

Always To Go Forward

We welcome our new club members

Roy Castelino
 Pino Correale
 Teresa D 'Souza
 Michael Pasquale
 Denis Price

and

salute their sponsors for helping to build our club for the glory of God and Serra's holy mission of supporting priesthood and all religious vocations

WELL DONE FELLOW SERRANS

BIRTHDAYS**FEBRUARY**

Maria Ceresna
 Joe Garwood
 Helen Hussar
 Maria Popik
 Florence Smith

MARCH

Bernard Smith
 Mary Veneziano

APRIL

Eilleen Calzavara
 Pat Hearn
 Denis Price
 David Smith
 Maria Tolomei

MAY

John Gennaro
 Caroline Smith
 Joseph Veneziano

JUNE

Anna Mangione
 Stella Rzdaki
 Ray Track

CLUB MEETINGS

Club Meetings are held at the Canadiana Restaurant 5230 Dundas Street West Etobicoke on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month (unless otherwise noted)

- Feb 13 Club Meeting #1195
 Feb 27 Club Meeting #1196
 Mar 13 Club Meeting #1197
 Mar 27 Club Meeting #1198
 Apr 10 Club Meeting #1199
 Apr 24 Club Meeting #1200
 May 8 Club Meeting #1201
 Annual Club Elections
 May 22 Club Meeting #1202
 Jun 12 Club Meeting #1203
 Jun 26 Club Meeting #1204

THE SERRA CLUB OF TORONTO WEST is preparing to celebrate its 50TH birthday later this year.

Vince Citriniti, 50th Committee Chair

is forming a group to assist with planning a significant celebration for this important milestone in the life of our Serra Club.

Firstly as a worthy tribute to Club Founders and the efforts and good will of all those dedicated TW Serrans who have gone before us to kept this club functioning for

50 years.

Secondly as a public display of our own dedication to Serra's mission. With careful planning it can be an opportunity to reach and inspire an audience of potential priestly vocations.

Here is an opportunity for you to contribute some of your God given skills, talents, ideas and experience to make this event a success. Do we have the will to succeed?

Call Vince now and offer your support.

vjcitriniti@gmail.com or 416 247 4211

Anniversaries**FEBRUARY**

Roy & Sheila Castelino
 John & Mary Plunkett

APRIL

Mario & Frances Cinelli
 Nicola & Lina Critelli
 Milan & Maria Popik
 Ray & Pam Track

Irene & Joseph Urbaniak

MAY

Joe & Mary Garwood

JUNE

Stella & Edward Rzdaki
 Mary & Joseph Veneziano

31st Serra Annual Bishop's Altar Server's Awards



Previously known as the Serra Altar Server Awards, this vocation event sponsored by the Serra Club of Toronto West has been re-named as above. It was held on Saturday October 29, at Our Lady of the Airways Parish, Mississauga, with Most Reverend John Boissonneau presiding.

Two hundred and seventeen Altar Servers were nominated from 49 parishes and missions from the Western Pastoral Region of the archdiocese. Of the 71 eligible parishes 69% submitted candidates.

Many priests, deacons and altar server coordinators from the participating parishes attended along with the server's family members. The church was spilling over with a joyfully engaged multitude.

The Bishop's Mass with beautiful music by Our Lady of the Airways choir was followed by Serran Patrick Hearn summoning the Altar Servers - by name - to come forth to receive the newly redesigned Bishop's Award Medal from Bishop Boissonneau personally. The young recipients were very appreciative of the recognition and well wishes they received.

Many Serrans from our club were of great assistance on Award Day with registrations, ushering, assisting the Bishop and serving food to the servers and their families. This year we introduced pizza to the food menu and the Altar Servers were happy to indulge. >

The Bathtub Test

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in an old age home?"

"Well" he said. "We fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a tea cup and a bucket to the person to empty the bathtub."

Oh, I understand, "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug.

Do **you** want a bed near the window?"

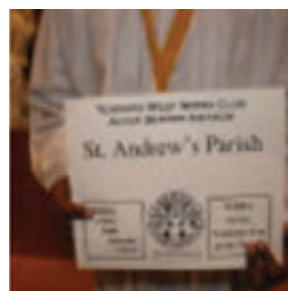
The planning of this day began months before when Club President Anne Brisbois Abbott and Co-chair Ann Mangione attended zone meetings to speak to Pastors about nominating their deserving servers.

Early in June forms were sent to all parishes and thus began the task of assembling candidates names. Next, contacting each of the Altar Servers nominated by their parish was handled by Irene Urbaniuk, Irene Bain, Patrick Portelli, and both Co-chairs.

We are grateful for the outstanding efforts of these Serrans as well as the many other Club members who came out on the Awards Day to assist in producing this valuable Serra vocations event.

Rev. Thomas Lim, Pastor, Rev. Joseph Jimmy, Associate Pastor, the choir, Silvana Morra and the ladies of Our Lady of the Airways parish deserve special mention and thanks on behalf of our Club for their much appreciated help.

Report by Ann Mangione.



Brother Denis Clavez Honoured Guest

Monday, November 28th, 2016
Introduced by Pino Correale



Denis Clavez was educated by the Irish Presentation Brothers who came to Montreal to serve the Irish immigrants in English. He developed a personal interest in the Brothers in Grade 9 from Brother Martin who planted the first seed of his vocation.

Twice a week Brother Martin taught the troubled boys Irish songs and dances. One Saturday, he took them to entertain at the Douglas Hospital in Verdun, the largest mental hospital in Canada at the time. After receiving an enthusiastic ovation for their performance they stayed for lunch and were invited to come back the next week. Unable to do so because of a heavy snowstorm, they were told the following week that the residents had waited by the window all morning watching for them and refused to take lunch. That was another seed in his vocation quest. He subsequently agreed to join the Order.

Years later, after Brother Martin had returned to the Brothers missions in Ghana, he contacted Brother Denis and asked him to come to Ghana to take over from him. Brother Denis accepted. He said that Brother Martin had been a great gift to the Presentation Brothers. He has been a Brother for 49 years and out of the country for 37 of them.

Brother Denis spent a number of years in Ghana serving in schools, missions and clinics. Eventually he returned to Canada to work with indigenous people in British Columbia. He questioned his superiors in Ireland as to why there are no vocations to their Order in America. As a result he was tasked with fishing for vocations and planting vocation seeds in high schools and universities.

Just two months ago Brother Denis went back to Ghana for a visit. There he met a fifty year old second-year novice with a big smile on his face. He had previously been an ESL teacher in Toronto. Brother Denis told us that quality over quantity is what is important - and for that he thanked the Serra Club for the Ordinandi dinner and our other vocations promoting works.

Today there are 40 missions in Africa as opposed to zero when he first went. What counts is that the Lord never turns his back: Ask and you shall receive, Seek and you shall find. The Presentation Brothers presently have 22 brothers in formation. As education is a right and not a privilege, the Brothers have been told that they cannot afford to quit. After doing Mission Appeals, four families signed up to educate a Brother. He said that in his life, the Lord had not disappointed him. When he was younger, he would have not stood up in front of a group and spoken; he would have frozen. Now, he just asks the Lord to provide the words each time.

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Fr. Roger Pascal, Honoured Guest

Monday January 23, 2017
Introduced by Gary MacDonald
Thanked by Paul Horbatiuk

Father Pascal has had the benefit of many different assignments in his priestly career. For the past three years he has been working as a hospital chaplain. Nothing in his previous career prepared him for the challenging and emotional task of serving in the world of the sick. Working in a hospital environment which is otherwise very clinical and business-like atmosphere requires great sensitivity. You have to check your own health and beauty attitudes at the door to avoid upsetting patients who are frequently in a fragile mental state because of their illness and the stress of unfamiliar hospital routines. It is often bewildering to the elderly to be told to disrobe in front of strangers. Some patients refuse to take their medications, or eat the hospital food. Others complain constantly. Understandably people are lost when they are taken out of their usual environment with no control over their lives. It is very upsetting to be told that they won't be going home for a long time.

As a chaplain you have to meet their social needs by talking to them about their interests in order to distract them from their hospital environment. For many it's the first time they are facing their mortality, their expiry date. The three stages that he constantly sees in the hospital are protest, fear and acceptance. They ask spiritual questions such as "What did I do wrong?" or "Why is God doing this to me? All this is part of the process of coming to terms with the new reality, which often comes unexpectedly.

He gave the case of a woman who had become pregnant after much difficulty. Recently she had been hospitalized with a very serious aneurysm. One day after the baby was born, the mother's life support system was turned off and she died within 3 minutes. He then prayed with the father and listened to his uncontrollable grief and shock. It's frequent cases like this that make his job very demanding.

Father Pascal told the Serrans that he was impressed by the Club's spirit, enthusiasm and hard work and thanked us for our support.

LATE GREAT NEWS

Founding President Sharon MacKinnon,
with the full support of Archbishop Mancini
and Vocations Director Fr. Craig Cameron,
and eighteen founding members, has applied to
Serra International for a Charter for the new
Serra Club of Halifax Nova Scotia

Father Frank Carpinelli Honoured Guest

Monday, September 12th, 2017
Introduced by: Vince Citriniti
Thanked by: Paul Horbatiuk

As a former teacher at St. Augustine's Seminary, (Professor) Father Carpinelli provided us with a profound explanation of the structure of the rules governing the Catholic Church. He said that anyone who is afraid of where Pope Francis is leading us is misinformed. The Pope is not changing the Church's teachings. But one Pope does not have to agree with a previous Pope. For example, Pope Benedict did not continue to promote The Theology Of The Body proposed by Pope John Paul II; Pope Benedict never uttered a word about it. He chose to leave the issue alone as a result of the many problems with it. Father Carpinelli then pointed out that there are three levels of rules in the Catholic Church: Dogma, Doctrine, and Practice.

Level 1: Dogma

Father explained that something is infallible only when it has come from divine revelations, the Church Council has formally defined it as having been revealed, and has declared it to be Dogma. As per Canon Law, nothing is infallible until it is clearly defined as such i.e. The Church Council says that it is so or the Pope, speaking Ex-Cathedra says it is so. An example of this is three persons in the Trinity. In modern times infallibility has only been declared twice, both by Pope Pius XII: once regarding the Assumption and once regarding the Immaculate Conception. He told us that Dogma comes about by Divine Faith and must be believed; otherwise you are a heretic.

Level 2: Doctrine

Doctrine is that which is not contained in Revelations e.g. divorce not being allowed at all is not absolute in the Book of Apostles. Under St. Paul, Christians could divorce pagan spouses.



Fr. Carpinelli is Pastor of
St. Leo's Church
Mimico, Ontario

The Revelations in the Bible are not the sole source of revelations. The Bible was written by humans, not by God. In addition, we are reading a translation of the original language, which is just someone's interpretation. A lot of doctrine is to do with day-to-day living, which is human thinking and reasoning and thus never can be infallible. For example, some councils who have excommunicated people who have gone to communion and others who have refused to receive it; this process is not infallible. Although you must live by the Doctrine of the Church, people tend to collapse everything to the infallible. For instance, as per the Church, until the 1950's, Arabs had no religious rights; however, since Vatican II, religious freedom is an inalienable right. Thus, even though the bishops and popes lead us, they are not perfect.

Level 3: Practice

Pope Francis is leading us on a new understanding of Practice e.g. certain Catholics who are divorced and remarried outside the Church can receive communion. In how to apply the transmission of life (which comes from St. Marguerite de Bourgeois), the natural methods of birth control are more effective than the artificial ones, so how do you make exceptions to the rule i.e. insemination versus conception? The Church has promoted the natural method for centuries and where the natural method is more effective, the distinction of natural versus artificial goes away. We thus have to keep in mind the differences between Church Dogma, Doctrine, and Practice. Neither is there a logical conclusion awaiting. For instance, where Pope John Paul II said that in no way were condoms to be used, Pope Benedict said that it was okay when one partner has Aids, as it is the lesser of two evils. In other words, no condoms were the personal choice of Pope John Paul II while Pope Benedict said that no pope should teach us his personal philosophy. In practice we must be careful not to bring everything into the one category of the infallible.



On November 5th, 2016, the Toronto West Serra Club hosted the Annual Serra District 26 Fall Conference at St. Dominic Church in Mississauga. This full day event attracted eighty-five Serrans from the four Toronto Clubs plus Durham, Halton, Hamilton, Kitchener-Waterloo, and St. Catharines.

Past President David Bain, Chair of the Host Club Committee assisted by Club members Patrick Portelli, Paul Horbatiuk, Gary MacDonald, and Irene Urbaniak worked diligently over several months to produce an outstanding Conference with dynamic guest speakers, inspiring religious devotions, and three delicious meals. Other Club members assisted with logistics and other details on the Conference day.

Opening remarks on **The Jubilee Year of Mercy** by the Most Rev. John A. Boissonneau, Bishop of the Western Region of the Archdiocese of

Toronto set the theme for the event. This was reflected in the presentations of the other distinguished guest speakers.

Dr. Michael Higgins, Sacred Heart University, Connecticut, USA offered thoughts on Pope Francis and the challenges facing contemporary priesthood; "Becoming Experts in Humanity".

Dr. Josephine Lombardi, St. Augustine's Seminary, her topic was "Mercy and Beyond".

Dr. Moira McQueen, University of St. Michael's College, addressed "Mercy and Morality".

Ms. Beverly O'Grady, Archdiocese of Toronto, spoke on "Living the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy".

Fr. William Trusz, from the Hamilton Diocese, told us about his experience as a "Missionary of Mercy".



2016 Serra Family



Sponsors David Bain and Anthony Mangione Jr. witness the Induction of two new members to our Club



Dennis Price and Michael Pasquale Inducted by VP Membership Nick Critelli and Father Boulos Saleh.

Bain

Fr. Saleh

Price

Critelli

Mangione Pasquale



Members and guests at Toronto West Family Christmas Party

All photos by